

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references provided in the November 15, 2001 Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants also thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified priority document.

The Examiner is kindly requested to accept the drawings in the next Office Action.

**Claim Rejections**

Claims 1-4 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)(2) as being anticipated by Chuah et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,409,722, Chuah hereafter). Applicants note for the record that Chuah et al. is U.S. Patent No. 6,400,722 and not the cited 6,409,722. Claims 5 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chuah in view of Akhtar et al. Claims 6 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chuah and Akhtar et al., and further in view of Voit et al. Claims 7 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chuah in view of Amos. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The present invention, for example, as shown in Figure 1 of the present application includes a plurality of different networks 11, 21, 31, 41, and 1, which are connected to internet 51. Mobile Terminals 17, 25, 35, and 45 are connected to each network. Additionally, each network has an Authentication, Authorization and Accounting Local (AAAL) device and network 1 has an Authentication, Authorization and Accounting Home (AAAH) device. Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to more clearly define the AAAL and AAAH

features of the present invention. The amended features were previously included in canceled claims 4 and 11.

In particular, claims 1 and 8 recite that an AAAL device is provided in *each of said plurality of communication networks*. As provided for in the claims, the claimed plurality of communication networks use different communication technologies. In Chuah et al., a roaming end system 60 has a subscriber relationship with home wireless provider 70 to make a connection away from the home wireless service provider (see col. 10, lines 13-26). Further, in addition to the subscriber relationship, in order to provide service to roaming end systems, the foreign network and the home network are also authenticated to each other (see col. 28, lines 3-7). While col. 30, lines 6-17 suggest collecting accounting data by the serving IWF and home IWF as stated by the Examiner, the exclusiveness of the connection (by subscription and authentication) would not suggest that an AAAL device be provided in each of said plurality of communication networks. Rather, Chuah et al. would suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art that the AAAL device would be provided only for particular relationships among the IWFs.

In addition, claims 6 and 13 recite that the AAAL device automatically identifies a *lower-charge* communication network. The Examiner acknowledges that this feature is not disclosed in either Chuah or Akhtar et al., or their combination. Rather, the Examiner turns to Voit et al. The Examiner states that V/IP station (PC) in Figure 12 of Voit performs local computation in order to obtain the least expensive pathway (citing col. 5, lines 14-27) based on information from C2 and C3. The Examiner states that the motivation to combine Chuah and Akhtar with Voit is that Chuah discusses how its invention provides hooks or infrastructure for

the communication structure such as V/IP. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. First, Chuah only discloses at col. 2, lines 5-32 that V/IP will be one service offered by internet service providers. This generic description by itself would not suggest a motivation for automatically identifying a *lower-charge* communication network. Voit et al., as cited by the Examiner discloses general routing of Internet telephone calls routing, and not in the context of a network/AAAL device at all. In addition, the connections in Chuah, as discussed above, are based on subscriber relationships. This individual, one-to-one connection among networks teaches away from identifying a lower-charge communication network. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6 and 13 are allowable for these reasons as well as their dependence on claims 1 and 8, respectively.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Application No. 09/987,517

Attorney Docket No. Q67254

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald Kimble  
Registration No. 44,186

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 11, 2005